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Europe/MEC

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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1952 JUN 9 AM 10 46

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
S/P

June 9, 1952

Subject: MEC

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NITZE

You mentioned to me Friday the work S/P has been doing on the MEC. I hope very much this can be pressed with a sense of urgency.

At any time we may find it necessary to take a position supporting the French program in Tunisia. If we could make an MEC proposal to the Arab States before such an event it would obviously be advantageous. The Anglo-Egyptian matter is in a relatively quiescent state at the moment. A general approach to the Arab States such as you are discussing might well be helpful. Our earlier view that we had to await a settlement of the Egyptian matter was based on a different approach to the MEC.

If we could begin negotiations soon with the Arab States we might by the time of the UNGA develop a sense of partnership with them. It would be much more difficult to do so during or after the bitter arguments which otherwise are almost certain to develop during the General Assembly. Aside from the UNGA, it is always likely that some explosive incident in North Africa, in Arab-Israeli relations, in Egypt or possibly in Iran, would make the approach more difficult.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/28/78
PER VELIOTES OFFICE NEA

Philip C. Jessup
Ambassador at Large

Copy to: NEA - Mr. Berry

S/A:PCJ:sv

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